

Yes, M49.5 is still in use

John Lyding

In February, 1995 Jim Estes raised a question regarding perfin M49.5 ("Modern Mystery", *TPB*, no. 476, p. 29). I have received several letters and comments regarding this particular perfin pattern.

Ferdinand Arndt (#1013) wrote to say that while he could not locate a reference, his first contact with this perfin pattern was on the 1969 Christmas issue (*Scott Catalogue* number 1384), precanceled Baltimore, MD. He went on to report that this precancel when perfined was much sought after at in late 1969 early 1970. The perfin was credited to the Mayor and City Council (MCC) of Baltimore City. It was misused philatelically during the early 1970's on a number of regular and commemorative issues. It is his recollection that in late 1969, the machine was in the office of the mayor's secretary.

Don Anderson (#293) also reported that the pattern's initials stand for Mayor and City Council, Baltimore, Maryland as reported by the *Handbook*

On *US Luminescent Stamps*, Alfred G. Boerger, 1975, p. 73. A portion of the page is reproduced on page 182.

Jo Ann Thomas (835F) provided photocopies of the two covers, partially illustrated on page 182, showing usage in 1945 and 1965. The 1945 envelopes' corner card cites Baltimore City Hospitals as the user while the 1965 mailing's corner card is "Supreme Bench of Baltimore City."



Bob Schwerdt (#505) kindly gave me his duplicate of the precanceled perfined 1969 Christmas issue, which is shown to the left

Finally, the photographically cropped cover illustrated at the end of this article was received by Joe Foley's daughter, Kathleen. Joe is a former president of APS and a frequent contributor to the philatelic press. He knows of my search for perfins and especially those used in Baltimore and hence his daughter contributed the cover to my collection.

It has long been my contention that pattern M49.5 and M50 are one and the same. Unfortunately, in order to prove this theses it would be necessary to assemble a large number of covers with the pattern. I also believe that the "MCC" stands for "Mayor and City Council."

The illustration has been photographically cropped to save space. The original is in my collection. The photocopy I sent to the US Catalog Editor for his evaluation is full sized.

The 1969 Baltimore Christmas "Overprints"
A Special Issue of "Officials"

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It has been difficult to understand why nothing has been printed on the subject by philatelic members in Baltimore. It was used openly and not shrouded in any secrecy. I find it note worthy.

Quite possibly from where I sit the picture is more clear and we have a better understanding of Philately. I do not think it is being stretched out of proportion at all. There is plenty room to debate.

The USPOD ordered a special printing of 1969 Christmas stamps for Atlanta, Baltimore, Memphis and New Haven.

Evidently Baltimore has a bigger crime problem than the other cities on this experimental test. I can understand that reasoning very well. It is close to Crime Ridden Washington and at one time all Capitol Governmental Offices turned to Official stamps to frank their mail.

The City Fathers in Baltimore seem to have a lot of light fingered help on their staffs. The budget evidently felt the pinch and as a means to correct this, turned to the "Perf Initials" route, used by many firms. The sheets of stamps are carefully centered and run thru a machine that turns out punched initials reading: "MCC".



The Baltimore Officials

MCC - (Mayor and City Council)

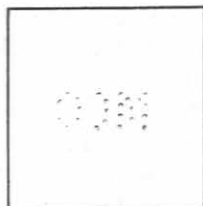
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Anyway you look at this it is for Official Use by that Official Office.

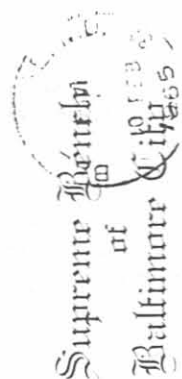
Since the 1969 Christmas Overprints were intended exclusively for the city of Baltimore we can safely say they are "Officials". Argue these as you will they were prepared as is.

This is not a common variety. Many U.S. Collectors have inquired for mint copies without help from The Baltimore dealers. Welcome to the Search on this one. Join in the hunt and YELL! if you can help!

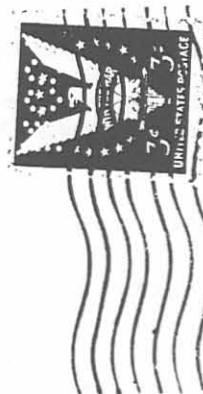
MCC



Pattern M49.5, Reversed



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